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Tuesday March 14, 2006

Garrard excludes tobacco buyout money from tax

By **BOBBIE CURD**
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LANCASTER - Garrard County Fiscal Court approved an amendment to the occupational tax ordinance after its second reading at Monday's meeting.

The amendment will exclude tobacco transit money from being taxed by the occupational licensing fee.

As of March 13, any farmers who received tobacco buyout and Phase II money would be exempt from paying occupational taxes, according to Rita Hines, occupational tax administrator.

"Most other counties have already done this, and since the whole thing has been such a hardship on our farmers we've incorporated it too," Hines said.

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Judge-Executive E.J. Hasty said the court also went into executive session to discuss a dispute over bidding the county's garbage removal contract. The contracts for residential pick-up are through Kenneth Prewitt Sanitation and Doug Rhodus sanitation, Hasty said, and had previously been extended without a bidding process.

"We're now going to put the trash removal up for bids. This whole thing started back in 1991, and evidently it had been done incorrectly, but we're straight now," Hasty said.

Herrington Lake Conservation League also was present at the meeting, Hasty said, to inform the court that the Kentucky PRIDE project no longer can fund them. The league asked Garrard, Mercer and Boyle counties each to contribute \$10,000 to the organization to keep it running.

Hasty said the request was tabled until the next meeting.

A first reading also was held of an amendment to the Garrard County Building Code Ordinance that would help Inspector Tim Scott with enforcement.

"Basically it's just a re-wording, giving Tim a little more authority to enforce the ordinances, such as with contractors, to make sure that they are first registered with me," Hines said.

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